This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently amended):   A method as recited in claim [[2]]16, wherein the first and second security codes [[is]]are at least partially encrypted.

Claim 4 (Currently amended):   A method as recited in claim [[1]]16, wherein the first and second applications [[is]]are verified based at least partially on memory location information associated with a verifying function.

Claim 5 (Original): A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the memory location information associated with the verifying function defines memory location within a read only memory (ROM).

Claim 6 (Currently amended):   A method as recited in claim [[1]]16, wherein the initial range includes at least a maximum controlled parameter setting, and the second application is not allowed to modify the controlled parameter setting beyond the maximum controlled parameter setting.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A method as recited in claim [[1]]16, wherein the initial range includes at least a minimum controlled parameter setting, and the second application is not allowed to modify the controlled parameter setting below the minimum controlled parameter setting.

Claims 8-14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A method as recited in claim [[1]]16, wherein the controlled parameter setting is selected from a group of settings comprising an audio volume control parameter, an audio tone control parameter, an illumination control parameter, a visual display control parameter, a temperature control parameter, a communication access control parameter, a peripheral device control parameter, a vehicle control parameter, and an environment control parameter.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A method comprising:

verifying that a first application is authorized to set an initial range for a controlled parameter setting;

if authorized, allowing the first application to set an initial range for the controlled parameter setting;

subsequently, allowing at least a second application to modify the controlled parameter setting within the initial range set by the first application;

verifying that the second application is authorized to modify a current range for the controlled parameter setting;

if authorized, allowing the second application to modify the current range for the controlled parameter setting; and

subsequently, allowing at least a third application to modify the controlled parameter setting within the current range as modified by the second application.

A method as recited in claim 8, wherein [[:]]

verifying that the first application is authorized to set the initial range for the controlled parameter setting further includes using a first verifier; and

verifying that the second application is authorized to modify the current range for the controlled parameter setting further includes using a second verifier,

wherein the first verifier and the second verifier are operatively configured in a serial arrangement, and the first verifier is independently responsive to a first security code and the second verifier is independently responsive to a second security code.

Claim 17 (Original): A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the first verifier is provided by a first entity and the second verifier that is provided by a second entity.

Claim 18 (Original): A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the first security code and the second security code are the same.

Claim 19 (Original): A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the first security code is provided by a first entity and the second security code is provided by a second entity.

Claims 20-23 (Cancelled)

Claim 24 (Currently amended):   A computer-readable medium as recited in claim [[23]]37, wherein the first and second security codes [[is]]are at least partially encrypted.

Claim 25 (Currently amended):   A computer-readable medium as recited in claim [[22]]37, wherein the first and second applications [[is]]are verified based at least partially on memory location information associated with a verifying function.

Claim 26 (Original): A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 25, wherein the memory location information associated with the verifying function defines memory location within a read only memory (ROM).

Claim 27 (Currently amended):   A computer-readable medium as recited in claim [[22]]37, wherein the initial range includes at least a maximum controlled parameter setting, and the second application is not allowed to modify the controlled parameter setting beyond the maximum controlled parameter setting.

Claim 28 (Currently amended):   A computer-readable medium as recited in claim [[22]]37, wherein the initial range includes at least a minimum controlled parameter setting, and the second application is not allowed to modify the controlled parameter setting below the minimum controlled parameter setting.

Claims 29-35 (Cancelled)

Claim 36 (Currently amended): A computer-readable medium as recited in claim [[22]]37, wherein the controlled parameter setting is selected from a group of settings comprising an audio volume control parameter, an audio tone control parameter, an illumination control parameter, a visual display control parameter, a temperature control parameter, a communication access control parameter, a peripheral device control parameter, a vehicle control parameter, and an environment control parameter.

Claim 37 (Currently amended): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

verifying that a first application is authorized to set an initial range for a controlled parameter setting;

if authorized, allowing the first application to set an initial range for the controlled parameter setting;

subsequently, allowing at least a second application to modify the controlled parameter setting within the initial range set by the first application;

verifying that the second application is authorized to modify a current range for the controlled parameter setting;

if authorized, allowing the second application to modify the current range for the controlled parameter setting; and

subsequently, allowing at least a third application to modify the controlled parameter setting within the current range as modified by the second application.

A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 29, wherein [[:]]

verifying that the first application is authorized to set the initial range for the controlled parameter setting further includes using a first verifier; and

verifying that the second application is authorized to modify the current range for the controlled parameter setting further includes using a second verifier,

wherein the first verifier and the second verifier are operatively configured in a serial arrangement, and the first verifier is independently responsive to a first security code and the second verifier is independently responsive to a second security code.

Claim 38 (Original): A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 37, wherein the first verifier is provided by a first entity and the second verifier that is provided by a second entity.

Claim 39 (Original): A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 37, wherein the first security code and the second security code are the same.

Claim 40 (Original): A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 37, wherein the first security code is provided by a first entity and the second security code is provided by a second entity.

Claims 41-72 (Cancelled)